BERWICK UPON TWEED

SANITARY AUTHORITY.

ANNUAL REPORT

UPON THE

HEALTH and SANITARY CONDITION of the Urban District of

BERWICK UPON TWEED,

For the Year ending 31st December, 1910, together with the means taken to Prevent the Spread of Disease, Improvements Effected, and Improvements Required.

The Report also contains Details of the Administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, as required by the Secretary of State for the Home Department.

March, 1911.

JAS. WHYTE, PRINTER, CORN EXCHANGE BUILDINGS, BERWICK

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REPORT.

To the CHAIRMAN and MEMBERS of the SANITARY DEPARTMENT of the TOWN COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report for the year 1910, this being my twenty-sixth.

Area, 6,930 acres.

Population from last census, 1901:—

Berwick,	8,270
Tweedmouth,	3,080
Spittal,	2,070

Number of inhabited houses up to date, 2,560.

Infant Mortality.—Number for whole District 31, against 25 last year (as given in Table I.), which is equal to a rate of 96 per 1000 births.

Comparative rate under 1 year:—

Berwick,	16=1.09	per 1000	of population.
Tweedmouth,	8=2.57	"	"
Spittal,	7=3.38	"	"

Annual Death-Rate.—225 nett (shown in Table IV.), 113 males, 112 females. This number is equivalent to a rate of 17.88 per 1000 of population for the whole Borough.

Comparative Annual Death-Rate of the three divisions:—

Berwick,	131=15.84	per 1000	—last year	15.35
Tweedmouth,	48=15.58	"	"	10.00
Spittal,	46=22.22	"	"	14.97

Annual Birth-Rate.—321, viz., 168 males, 153 females, which is equivalent to a rate of 24 per 1000 of whole District.

Comparative Birth-Rate of the three places:—

Berwick,	186=22.40	per 1000	—last year	24.78
Tweedmouth,	85=27.59	"	"	25.64
Spittal,	50=24.41	"	"	28.00

Notifications of New Cases of Sickness.—Diphtheria 63, scarlet fever 39, erysipelas 7, puerperal fever 1, measles (not notifiable) 1—total 111.

Scarlet fever had been imported from outside the district the previous year, chiefly by individuals travelling in trains and by railway drivers; but as I am now penning my Report, I am happy to be able to state that the district is nearly free from it. Also I am happy to be able to say that not a single death resulted from it.

Diphtheria occurred the year previous, especially the latter part of that year. Some sporadic cases sprung up in different parts, but it was only in October the outbreak really began, and it has continued up to the present time. An abatement was noticeable on the arrival of the frost, only to begin again on its ceasing. It was of a mild type and scattered over the whole Borough, so that I could not say that one portion suffered more than another.

Some few cases have been traced to defective drains, and some to surface gullytraps, but the great bulk of the cases could not be traced to any special cause, if not from aerial bacteria during the very open winter; but I am glad to be able to state that the death-rate has not been much augmented by it, as only three cases succumbed.

A member of the family of one house having a dairy attached was attacked with the complaint, but the Inspector and myself very promptly had the family isolated and all dairy utensils removed, and communication with the byre and house stopped, so that no infection could be carried.

Four cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified under Board's Order, 1908. These have been treated with disinfectants.

Dairies and Cowsheds Acts.—The milk from many dairies in the adjacent country is used in Berwick, which being outside the Borough are not therefore supervised by the officers of the Berwick Authority; but the 49 registered dairies and the 6 milk shops have been visited to prevent the spread of disease. There are 207 cows belonging to the dairies under inspection.

The owner of one cowshed was served with a notice for overcrowding and mixing horses and cows, but that state of matters has been remedied by the erection of a new shed.

The cows inspected seem very healthy animals, and there was no fault to find with any of them during the year. We did not come across a single one suffering from tuberculosis, against 4 the previous year, which were slaughtered.

The milkshops are kept in a very satisfactory state, although they require frequent watching as to the keeping of covers on jars. I certainly think the infection of diphtheria before referred to did not come from the milk source, and I am equally sure it did not emanate

from the water supply, as eight public supplies were submitted for analysis, one well twice (Tanyard Well), and these were all declared pure and drinkable by the public analyst.

Spittal, though drained many years ago, still retains the ashpits and pail-closets, which I have so frequently complained of. It is said that the water supply is not in sufficient quantity to enable proprietors to adopt w.c's and abolish these disease traps. Therefore I do hope that, wherever the levels will allow, the water-carriage system will be adopted without delay.

About the insanitary state of Tweedmouth I do not wish to say much, it being admitted on all sides that that place could not possibly be worse, with its abominable odours and unsightly channels and the liquid excreta flowing along them. It is often said that Tweedmouth is healthier than Berwick; that may be so, for the same circumstances do not obtain in the former place, viz., the working men are more of the *bona fide* class, and have not the numbers of casuals as are located in Berwick, are better clad, better fed, better housed, and are therefore better able to resist attacks from their insanitary surroundings, such as the want of a proper water supply and drainage; but given those advantages, would not the death-rate be still more reduced?

Common Lodging Houses.—These have been periodically visited, and on no occasion during the year was there any reason to find fault with them; while no disease had been reported.

The Slaughter Houses are visited periodically, and are in a very satisfactory state, being thoroughly washed and disinfected after each operation. The Cattle Market also receives careful attention under the supervision of the Inspector.

Dead Meat Supply.—A great number of bullocks and sheep are slaughtered here for the London market, but while the living animals are inspected by the Veterinary Surgeon, there is no Inspector under this Act. Under this head I had occasion to condemn as unfit for human food three cods in a decomposed state in a fishmonger's shop.

Food and Drugs Act.—The Inspector (Chief Constable) reports that 40 samples were sent for analysis and found satisfactory.

Overcrowding.—I have visited during the year 13 houses which were served with notices, and the nuisances were abated. In an old place like this there are many old dwellings which call for constant notices being served on the landlords for dilapidation in properties, and I must say there are many old buildings which, instead of patching them up as has been done, would have been better pulled down

had the displaced people anywhere to house their bodies in; but the unfortunate high rates that localities complain of is always a stumbling block to improvement. I do hope the day is not far distant when some plan will be adopted for the housing of the poor.

Factory and Workshop Act.—Bakers and confectioners 23, joiners and cabinetmakers 13; coachmakers, blacksmiths, boilermakers, spadeworks, and electric works, 26; tailors 10, dressmakers 15, sausage and tripe makers 13, printers 5, painters 6, roperies 7, saddlers 3, boot and shoe makers 13, artificial manure manufacturers 4, chemical works 1, herring curers 8, photographers 3, plumbers 6, mineral water manufacturers 3, maltsters 3, flour mill 1, laundries 4, jewellers 3, coffee grinder 1, seed crushers and oilcake makers 4, cycle workshops 7—total, 182.

All these places are periodically visited, are very satisfactory, and only require a formal notice when not in a sanitary state to have defects remedied. One bakehouse, on inspection, was found to be not very clean, and on giving the owner warning it was put all right. One artificial manure manufactory required an extra door for the separation of the sexes, and on H.M.I. asking me to look into the matter, I had no difficulty in getting compliance to the request.

I visit the bakehouses every three months, and the other places generally twice a year, and I must say they are kept in a very satisfactory state.

Improvements Effected.—Ravensdowne carriage-way has been tar-macadamised, which is a very great improvement. The upper part of Castlegate has been repaved and footpaths cemented, which has done away with all the inequalities, so that now there are no dirty spots. Quay Walls are in process of being laid with cement blocks, and gradually all the dirty places are disappearing.

I have visited 30 sailing ships and steamers from foreign parts, and found all the crews healthy, each having a clean bill of health.

Requirements.—Water for Tweedmouth and Spittal, and drainage for Tweedmouth. Pail-closets to be abolished in Spittal. Houses for the poor.

I have the honour to be,

GENTLEMEN,

Your obedient servant,

D. HEAGERTY,

Medical Officer of Health.

Table I.
Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1910 and previous Years.

Year.	Population, estimated to middle of each year.	Births.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.				Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non-Residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.	
				Under 1 year.		At all Ages.						
		No.	Rate.	No.	Rate per 1000 Births registered.	No.	Rate.				No.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1900,...	13,330	334	25	59	176	289	21	18	*	*	*	*
1901,...	13,420	342	25	47	137	248	18	17	*	*	*	*
1902,...	13,420	351	26	45	128	249	18	17	6	*	242	18
1903,...	13,420	336	25	24	71	218	16	24	7	10	224	16
1904,...	13,420	348	26	39	112	238	17	9	1	8	238	17
1905,...	13,420	343	25	40	116	224	16	5	10	10	224	16
1906,...	13,420	338	25	51	150	233	17	14	9	6	233	17
1907,...	13,420	335	25	40	122	231	17	27	6	6	225	16
1908,...	13,420	309	23	43	139	227	17	34	8	4	223	16
1909,...	13,420	342	25	25	73	192	14	29	11	8	189	14
Averages for years 1900-1909.	13,411	337	25	41	122	234	17	19	—	—	—	—
1910,	13,420	321	24	31	96	219	16	24	5	11	225	16

* Not returned.

Table II.
Vital Statistics of separate Localities during 1910 and previous Years.

Names of Localities	BERWICK.				TWEEDMOUTH.				SPITTAL.			
Year.	Population, estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population, estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population, estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
1900,...	8,500	*	175	31	2,900	*	55	14	1,930	*	41	14
1901,...	8,270	204	155	30	3,080	83	33	7	2,070	55	39	10
1902,..	8,270	214	154	31	3,080	77	53	6	2,070	60	39	8
1903,...	8,270	204	151	17	3,080	78	40	4	2,070	54	27	3
1904,...	8,270	206	158	27	3,080	82	49	5	2,070	60	32	7
1905, ..	8,270	195	138	21	3,080	94	53	9	2,070	54	33	10
1906, ..	8,270	195	154	26	3,080	82	63	18	2,070	61	25	7
1907,...	8,270	185	148	19	3,080	93	58	11	2,070	57	25	10
1908,...	8,270	194	124	24	3,080	69	59	11	2,070	46	40	8
1909,...	8,270	205	127	14	3,080	79	31	9	2,070	58	31	2
Averages of years 1900-1909.	8,293	—	148	24	3,062	—	49	9	2,056	—	33	7
1910,...	8,270	186	131	16	3,080	85	48	8	2,070	50	46	7

* Not returned.

Table III.
Cases of Infectious Disease Notified during the Year 1910.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases Notified in Whole District.							Total Cases Notified in each Locality.			No. of Cases removed to Hospital from each Locality.			
	At All Ages.	At Ages—Years.						BERWICK.	TWEEDMOUTH.	SPITTAL.	BERWICK.	TWEEDMOUTH.	SPITTAL.	Total Cases removed to Hospital.
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and up.							
Diphtheria (including Membraneous Croup),	63	.....	6	43	14	.....	.....	36	17	10	11	3	2	
Erysipelas,	7	.....	1	2	4	.....	.....	2	3	2	.....	.....	.....	
Scarlet Fever,	39	.....	12	18	7	2	.....	30	6	3	16	1	3	
Puerperal Fever,	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Measles,	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	1	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	
Totals,	111	.....	19	63	25	4	.....	70	26	15	28	4	5	37

Table IV.
Causes of, and Ages at, Death during the Year 1910.

Causes of Death.	Deaths at the subjoined Ages of Residents, whether in or beyond the District.							Deaths at all Ages of Residents belonging to Localities, whether occurring in or beyond the District.			Total Deaths, whether of Residents or Non-Residents in Public Institutions in the District.
	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and up.	BERWICK.	TWEED-MOUTH.	SPITTAL.	
Whooping Cough,	11	6	5	.....	.....	.....	.....	6	4	1	
Diphtheria (including Membraneous Croup),	4	1	2	1	.....	.....	.....	1	1	2	
Croup,	1	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	...	...	
Epidemic Influenza,	9	2	2	.....	.....	1	4	6	2	1	
Diarrhœa,	2	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1	...	
Enteritis,	2	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1	..	
Puerperal Fever,	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	1	..	...	
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis),	19	.....	.....	3	4	12	.....	8	9	2	
Other Tuberculous Diseases,	13	.....	6	2	.....	3	2	7	2	4	
Cancer, malignant disease,	11	.....	.....	.....	.....	8	3	6	3	2	
Bronchitis,	11	.....	3	.....	1	4	3	9	1	1	
Pneumonia,	12	3	2	.....	.....	3	4	6	2	4	
Pleurisy,	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	1	...	...	
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs,	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	1	...	...	
Alcoholism; Cirrhosis of Liver,	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	1	...	...	
Premature Birth,	7	7	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5	1	1	
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition,	3	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	...	1	
Heart Diseases,	34	.....	.....	.....	3	16	15	23	6	5	
Accidents,	5	1	.....	.....	1	2	1	3	2	...	
All other causes,	77	5	2	2	1	20	47	42	13	22	
All causes,	225	31	24	8	10	73	79	131	48	46	24

Table V.

Infant Mortality during the Year 1910.

Cause of Death.	Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	8-9 Months.	9-10 Months.	10-11 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total Deaths under 1 Year.
Whooping Cough,					2		1	1	2		1			7
Enteritis,							1							1
Gastritis,			1	1		1								2
Premature Birth,	4	1		5	1				1					7
Congenital Defects,					1									1
Atrophy,	4	1		5										5
Tuberculous Meningitis,													1	1
Meningitis, *not Tuberculous*,										1				1
Convulsions,						1								1
Bronchitis,					1					2				3
Pneumonia,												1		1
Other causes,					1									1
	8	2	1	11	6	2	2	1	3	3	1	1	1	31
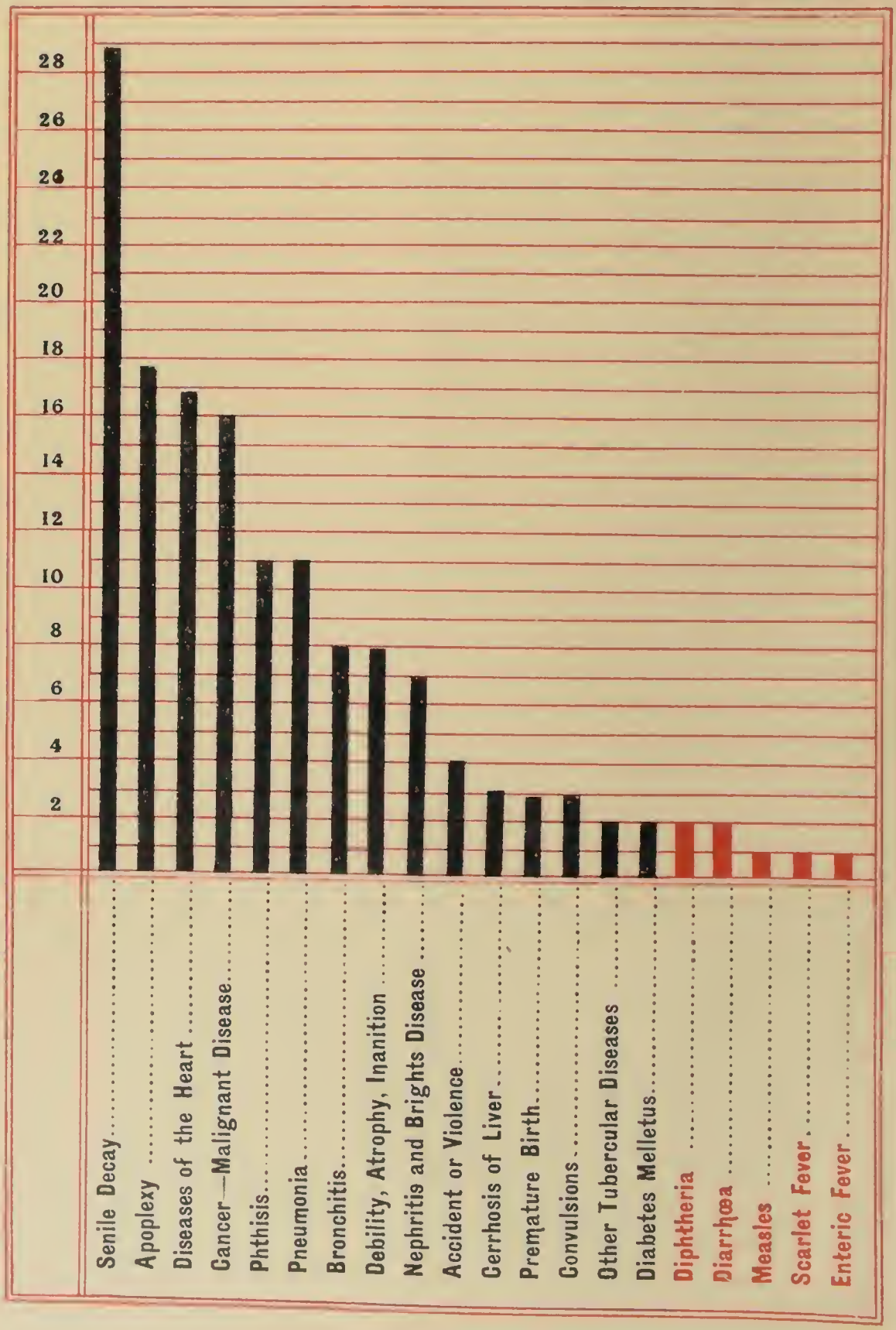
Chart showing the Comparative Number of the Twenty Principal causes of Death during the year 1910.